

stimulus news DIGEST

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Recovery Project News

California Gets \$2.3 Million for Broadband Stimulus: California has been awarded \$2.3 million in federal stimulus money to collect information on broadband service availability in the state and create an interactive web-based map showing available services and providers by address. The U.S. Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration announced the first four grants under the State Broadband Data and Development Grant Program, with just over \$6.8 million going to California, Indiana, North Carolina and Vermont. In California, \$1.8 million will go to the California Public Utilities Commission to collect and verify the availability, speed and location of broadband across the state on a semi-annual basis between 2009 and 2011, with initial data coming available in November. The CPUC will get a further \$500,000 for the cost of broadband planning activities in California over four years. For that work, the state agency is partnering with California State University, Chico. (*"California Gets \$2.3 Million for Broadband Stimulus," Los Angeles Business Journal, 10/6/09*)

Southern California Air Projects Get \$26.5 Million from Stimulus: The U.S. EPA announced \$26.5 million in funding for diesel emission reduction projects in Southern California. This infusion of money will help the region finance projects to reduce diesel emissions, protecting public health and the environment across the region. Pollution from dirty diesel engines remains one of the most significant health risks in California, and these funds are being used to replace, repower and update diesel engines in school buses, heavy-duty trucks, locomotives, construction vehicles, and cargo handling equipment in the Southern California air basin, which includes Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino, and Riverside counties. (*"Southern California Air Projects Get \$26.5 Million from Stimulus," Environmental Protection News, 10/6/09*)

Crime Victims Getting Stimulus Money amid Downturn: The San Bernardino County District Attorney's Office has received \$36,318 in stimulus money to help combat rising numbers of human trafficking cases within the county. The training will be available for prosecutors, law enforcement, victim's advocates, faith-based organizations, community organizations and businesses. The funding is part of \$225 million in stimulus money on programs that deal with violence against

women, and \$100 million more to help victims of crime. (*"Crime Victims Getting Stimulus Money amid Downturn," Inland Valley Daily Bulletin, 10/5/09*)

High-speed Rail Project Waits for Stimulus Funds: California has applied for \$4.7 billion in stimulus money to help build an 800-mile bullet train system that would stretch from San Francisco to San Diego. The application, which was filed last Friday, aims to receive more than half of the \$8 billion in funds available for nationwide high speed rail projects. "Recovery Act funding for high-speed rail will go further and create more jobs in California than any other state in the nation—because we have pledged to match it dollar-for-dollar," said Schwarzenegger. The state's application also called for \$5 billion in local, private and state funds to match any stimulus money received. The state would be ready to break ground in 2011, a year earlier than federal guidelines. Rail officials believe the project would create 600,000 temporary jobs and 450,000 permanent jobs. (*"High-speed Rail Project Waits for Stimulus Funds," San Diego News Room, 10/5/09*)

DA Gets Federal Stimulus Money for Domestic Violence Program: The Shasta County District Attorney's Office has been awarded two federal stimulus grants that will pay for a domestic violence advocate for another year. Worth \$30,390, the grants to the district attorney's Crime Victims Assistance Unit were awarded through the Victims of Crime and Violence Against Women acts. The grants will pay for a job that already exists - a domestic violence advocate who works primarily on cases submitted for prosecution. The advocate helps victims find shelter and create a safety plan and refers them to other services. (*"DA Gets Federal Stimulus Money for Domestic Violence Program," The Record Searchlight, 10/4/09*)

Federal Stimulus to Create Jobs, Repair Local Streets: The city of San Jose is taking advantage of tough economic times by using \$15 million of federal stimulus money to create jobs and begin two transportation projects. Because of funds received from the Recovery Act, the city has estimated 160 to 170 jobs will be created. Senior Executive Analyst Allen Fong claimed the first of the two projects will begin in two months and will work to resurface nearly 16 miles of arterial streets in San Jose. (*"Federal Stimulus to Create Jobs, Repair Local Streets," Public CEO, 10/2/09*)

Ports Receive EPA Stimulus Grants to Cut Diesel Emissions: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency today announced \$26 million in federal stimulus grants to cut diesel emissions in Southern California. Included will be money for the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach to retrofit heavy-duty equipment. The Port of Long Beach is slated to receive \$4 million to replace or retrofit cargo-handling equipment, including cranes and harbor crafts, and the Port of Los Angeles will receive \$2 million to do the same. The California Air Resources Board received \$951,431, which it will use as grant money for school districts to retrofit about 43 school buses. (*"Ports Receive EPA Stimulus Grants to Cut Diesel Emissions," Los Angeles Times Blog, 10/1/09*)

Lake Transit Receives \$1.1 Million in Stimulus Funds for New Buses, Maintenance: Caltrans announced that Lake Transit was among several rural North Coast transit agencies receiving more than \$3 million in funds from the Recovery Act of 2009. Lake Transit Authority received the most of any North Coast transit group, with an award of \$1,113,956 for

replacement buses and to catch up on preventative maintenance. In Del Norte County, Redwood Coast Transit was awarded \$484,529, the city of Arcata received \$220,000, the city of Eureka was awarded \$150,000, Humboldt Transit Authority was awarded \$519,516 and Mendocino Transit Authority received \$606,000. Caltrans reported that, statewide, \$34 million was awarded to 77 rural agencies. (*"Lake Transit Receives \$1.1 Million in Stimulus Funds for New Buses, Maintenance," Lake County News, 10/1/09*)

Editorial: Stimulus Dollars Needed for High-Speed Rail: Friday's a big day for California's high-speed rail plan: Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger will formally request \$4.5 billion in federal stimulus dollars to advance the project that will create about 133,000 jobs, 15,000 of them in the San Jose to San Francisco area. The U.S. Department of Transportation should find this compelling. California's plan is further along than any other high-speed rail project in the country, and the state will match every federal dollar. As to the stimulus intent, California's unemployment rate of over 12 percent is a powerful argument. The best use of stimulus dollars is to not only create jobs but also to strengthen the economy for the future, just as the United States did during the Great Depression. High-speed rail someday will seem as indispensable as the Depression-born Golden Gate Bridge, and stimulus dollars can make it happen. (*"Editorial: Stimulus Dollars Needed for High-Speed Rail," San Jose Mercury News, 9/30/09*)

*Interested in
finding out more?*

The Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board has launched a reworked website to track stimulus spending. The newly overhauled **recovery.gov** represents progress in providing information on government spending.

The facelift includes interactive maps that drill-down to show the location, cost and number of jobs created by individual projects at neighborhood levels.

<http://www.recovery.gov>

Federal Stimulus Dollars Help Renewable

Energy: The garbage goes in and the green energy comes out. It is a project that turns solid waste into renewable energy in the East Bay and paid for with federal stimulus dollars. The Keller Canyon Landfill unveiled its new state-of-the-art plant for converting methane gas from decomposing garbage into electricity and is now capturing enough landfill gas to generate 3.8 megawatts of electricity, in a process that's much cleaner burning with lower emissions than plants like it built in the past. The clean-air benefit of converting the methane gas from the garbage into electricity is equivalent to removing nearly 30,000 cars from the road. (*"Federal Stimulus Dollars Help Renewable Energy," KGO-TV San Francisco, 9/30/09*)

More Federal Stimulus Dollars will Buy New

Buses in North State: The California Department of Transportation is giving the Redding Area Bus Authority about \$400,000 to help pay for a new 40-foot bus and a pair of 35-foot buses, as well as support shuttles. Other funds coming to the north state include \$394,000 for two 27-foot diesel buses and 24 bus shelters in Tehama County; \$70,000 for two 22-foot buses in Trinity County and \$311,000 for 14 electronic fare boxes in Siskiyou County. (*"More Federal Stimulus Dollars will Buy New Buses in North State," The Record Searchlight, 9/29/09*)

Using Stimulus Funds, Capital-Area Project to

Renovate Homes: With federal funds, the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency hopes to transform foreclosed eyesores into gems. SHRA officials hope to rehabilitate 50 to 60 homes with the \$3 million allocation. Proceeds from the sales will be plowed back into the program to buy additional houses. Sacramento County received \$18.6 million from the federal housing bailout bill, and through SHRA also will spend part of that money to buy and fix up foreclosed homes. (*"Using Stimulus Funds, Capital-Area Project to Renovate Homes," Sacramento Bee, 9/29/09*)

California Gets \$34 Million Stimulus for Rural

Transit: California has been awarded \$34 million in federal economic stimulus funding for transit projects in rural communities. Money will be used to rehabilitate and renovate buses, shelters and transit maintenance facilities across the state. The four county Sacramento region captured about \$1.5 million of the \$34 million in funding. Locally, grants include \$251,000 for preventative maintenance to Placer County Public Works, \$502,509 for hardware and software for 35 electronic fare boxes for the Yolo County Transportation District, and \$152,000

for a 22-passenger replacement commuter bus for Sacramento County. Other local recipients of the transit grants include the city of Lincoln (\$251,098), the city of Rio Vista (\$75,000), and the El Dorado County Transit Authority (\$769,133). (*"California Gets \$34 Million Stimulus for Rural Transit," Sacramento Bee, 9/28/09*)

Rural Residents Benefit from Stimulus Dollars:

California will get \$34 million in stimulus money to improve public transportation in rural areas, and San Diego will get a little over a million of that. The Metropolitan Transit System and North County Transit will purchase about a dozen new buses. The vehicles cost almost \$100,000 each and created jobs in Kansas, where they were built. This grant is part of California's \$1 billion share of stimulus money for public transit. The state also has more than \$2 billion to spend on improving roads and freeways. (*"Rural Residents Benefit From Stimulus Dollars," KPBS San Diego, 9/28/09*)

Stimulus Funds to Help Pay for San Jose Roads:

The city of San Jose announced work on 19 miles of roads as stimulus funds begin rolling into the state. Up first are major repaving efforts on streets in such bad shape that temporary fixes were long ago deemed useless and that otherwise might not have been repaired for another 10 years. Across Northern California, plans are moving ahead to fix other rough roads. More than \$2.22 billion in stimulus funds has so far been allocated to California for transportation, the highest figure for any state. (*"Stimulus Funds to Help Pay for San Jose Roads," Silicon Valley Mercury News, 9/28/09*)

Fresno Gets \$4 Million to Aid Homeless: More than \$4 million in federal stimulus funding is about to become available to relieve and prevent homelessness in Fresno. City and county leaders are allocating funds to 11 organizations that will be charged with finding and helping people who are homeless or in danger of becoming so. Agencies that will get funding from one or both sources include Central California Legal Services, AspiraNet, Marjaree Mason Center, WestCare California-Veterans, Fresno EOC Sanctuary, Angels of Grace Foster Family Agency, the city and county housing authorities, the California Association for the Physically Handicapped and the United Way of Fresno County. (*"Fresno Gets \$4 Million to Aid Homeless," Fresno Bee, 9/27/09*)

Big Push for Bikes: City Seeks Federal Stimulus Money for Bike Route Along Highway 99: Plans for one of the largest bike route projects in Butte County may soon gain speed, if the city can secure funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The Highway 99 Corridor Bikeway Project — a proposal that would continuously link nearly seven miles of bike path and routes from Eaton Road to Southgate Avenue — has been in the works for several years, though financing the endeavor has been unsuccessful. The corridor will link a number of paved city roads, gravel maintenance roads and Bidwell Park bike paths. When completed, it will provide a route for bicyclists on dedicated bike paths, routes and lanes that runs the entire length of the city. (*"Big Push for Bikes: City Seeks Federal Stimulus Money for Bike Route Along Highway 99," Chico Enterprise Record, 9/26/09*)

CAN Gets \$1.6 Million Stimulus: The Community Assistance Network (CAN) will be receiving almost \$1.6 million to help fight homelessness in Del Norte County. The grant is stimulus money allocated through the California Department of Housing and Community Development. The non-profit organization will also soon be receiving \$300,000 from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to construct a warehouse for building CAN Cottages, which are made out of recycled steel shipping containers. The \$1.6 million will be used in two ways, to prevent people from becoming homeless and to get those who are homeless back into a home. (*"CAN Gets \$1.6 Million Stimulus," The Daily Triplicate, 9/25/09*)

Recovery Act Funds Will Upgrade Earthquake Monitoring: Grants totaling \$5 million under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act are being awarded to 13 universities nationwide to upgrade critical earthquake monitoring networks and increase public safety. "These stimulus grants will save lives as well as create jobs," Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar said today. "More than 75 million Americans in 39 states face the risk of earthquakes. Through the modernization of seismic networks and data processing centers, scientists will be able to provide emergency responders with more reliable, robust information to save lives and reduce economic losses." In California and other high-hazard regions, some parts of the current system include 40-year-old technology, and even the

systems most recently upgraded date back to 1997. Think about what a 12-year-old computer looks like. Stimulus funding will replace old instruments with state-of-the-art, robust systems across the highest earthquake hazard areas in California, the Pacific Northwest, Alaska, the Intermountain West, and the central and eastern United States. Universities in California receiving funding include: California Institute of Technology; University of California, San Diego; and University of California, Berkeley. (*"Recovery Act Funds Will Upgrade Earthquake Monitoring," USGS News, 9/24/09*)

Federal Stimulus Aids Restoration in Tahoe Forest: Heavy equipment is chewing through a sensitive meadow north of Truckee, all part of an effort to ultimately make the place more nature friendly. Restoration of Perazzo Meadows will benefit not only fish and wildlife, but improve flood conditions and natural water storage. Planned for years, the effort was in danger of being brought to a standstill when California's budget crisis dried up a critical source of funding. It was rescued by the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act, which provided about \$575,000 in federal stimulus funding to get this summer's work going. The project, the largest of its kind in Tahoe National Forest, is designed to return creek and river flows to natural channels and in doing so, return the area to its natural state. When all phases are finished, about 4 miles of flowing water and more than 600 acres of meadow will be improved. (*Federal Stimulus Aids Restoration in Tahoe Forest," Reno Gazette Journal, 9/23/09*)

RCAA Nabs \$1.6 Million in Stimulus Funds: \$1.6 million of the \$42.7 million federal Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program will be spent in Humboldt County. The funds are designated to provide short- and medium-term rental assistance to individuals and families who are currently in housing but at risk of becoming homeless, and to individuals and families who are currently homeless. In Humboldt County, the \$1.6 million award will help fund the Homeless Prevention Partnership, which brings together a variety of local agencies in an effort to both prevent homelessness and help currently homeless people get back on their feet. (*"RCAA Nabs \$1.6 Million in Stimulus Funds," The Times-Standard, 9/23/09*)

County Organizations Land \$4 Million to Fight Homelessness: The Department of Housing and Urban Development awarded \$4 million Tuesday to county organizations to keep people off the streets and in stable housing. Local outreach groups and health agencies will use the one-time federal grant to give rental assistance to people at risk of becoming homeless and to help get homeless people into permanent housing. Families in Transition of Santa Cruz County got \$1.6 million, while the Community Action Board of Santa Cruz County Inc. and the Santa Cruz County Health Services Agency each got \$1.2 million. (*"County Organizations Land \$4 Million to Fight Homelessness," Santa Cruz Sentinel, 9/23/09*)

Monterey County's Homeless Get Stimulus: 1.6 Million for Assistance: The 1.6 million in stimulus funds, which come from the federal Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Program, are to be used for short-term rental assistance for homeless families, and for families and individuals with homes who are on the verge of becoming homeless. The money is sorely needed, said Marilyn Dorman, executive director of the Housing Resource Center of Monterey County. Homelessness in the county has spiked since the economy soured and unemployment shot past 10 percent. About 2,700 homeless people were counted in a January census conducted by the county. That was nearly double the 1,400 homeless counted during the 2007 census. The Housing Resource Center is one of five homelessness-prevention organizations in the county that will benefit from the funding. The others are the YWCA, Shelter Outreach Plus, the Coalition of Homeless Service Providers and Southern Monterey County Resource Center, formerly known as the South County Crisis Center. (*"Monterey County's Homeless Get Stimulus: 1.6 Million for Assistance," Monterey County Herald, 9/23/09*)

Fresno State Wins \$1.4 Million Stimulus Grant: The National Science Foundation has awarded California State University, Fresno a nearly \$1.4 million grant to for a project to increase diversity within the academic disciplines that make up the geosciences. The grant will create the Geoscience Mentoring, Education, Teaching Research and Outreach (METRO) Center at Fresno State. The geoscience umbrella includes geology, environmental science, hydrology, air quality and atmospheric chemistry, meteorology and climatology. The METRO Center will provide research opportunities within Fresno State geoscience research laboratories to 24 undergraduate students each year. They are to get intensive mentoring and career guidance to prepare them for graduate study and the workforce. The center also will provide education and training resources for K-12 teachers and students. (*"Fresno State Wins \$1.4 Million Stimulus Grant," Central Valley Business Times, 9/22/09*)

General Recovery News

Federal Government Spends Stimulus Money Faster Than Expected: The federal government is spending stimulus dollars slightly faster than originally expected, according to a government report issued Wednesday, but some programs have been hampered or delayed by confusion over some of the law's requirements. The government has already paid out around \$48 billion of the \$49 billion that was expected to go to states and localities in the fiscal year that ends on Sept. 30, putting the rate of spending slightly ahead of schedule, according to the report, which was issued by the Government Accountability Office. The vast majority of the money spent so far — 84 percent — was provided in the form of extra Medicaid and education money to keep states afloat during the downturn; about 4 percent of it was for highway construction. (*"Federal Government Spends Stimulus Money Faster Than Expected," New York Times, 9/23/09*)

